

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5084

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION IN UNGA FIFTH COMITE

1. MISSION HAS NOTED WITH CONCERN THAT REPRESENTATION IN FIFTH COMITE OF LIKE-MINDED DELS, IN PARTICULAR WEO'S, IS DIMINISHING IN TERMS OF QUALITY AND INFLUENCE-CAPABILITY. FOR EXAMPLE, CANADA, WHICH HAS BEEN REPRESENTED SINCE 1969 BY ANGUS MATHESON WHO IS A COUNSELLOR IN PERMANENT MISSION, WILL BE RESENTED BY A NEW SECOND SECRETARY WITH ONLY LIMITED EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA. AFTER DEPARTURE OF MATHESON EARLY NEXT MONTH. CANADIANS, AND MATHESON IN PARTICULAR, HAVE BEEN ONE OF MOST INFLUENTIAL DELS IN FIFTH COMITE AND WERE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO USDEL ON SUCH MATTERS AS 25 PER CENT AND UNEF FINANCING. AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND NORWAY, EACH OF WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD FULL TIME AND ABLE MISOFFS HANDLING FIFTH COMITE MATTERS, HAVE NOT SENT REPLACEMENTS WHEN INDIVIDUALS WERE TRANSFERRED FROM NEW YORK. EXCEPT FOR AUSTRALIA, THEIR UNGA DELS HAVE BEEN VERY WEAK.

2. AT SAME TIME AS WEO'S ARE DECREASING THEIR REPRESENTATION, OTHER DELS, AND IN PARTICULAR NAG AND LDC'S, ARE PUTTING INDIVIDUALS IN FIFTH COMITE WHO ARE ABLE (THOUGH LESS THAN KNOWLEDGABLE) AND EXERCISE INCREASING INFLUENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, AT LAST UNGA ALGERIA WAS REPRESENTED BY DEP PERM REP BOUAYAD-AGHA WHO PLAYED

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MAJOR ROLE IN COMITE ALTHOUGH HE OFTEN WAS DISRUPTIVE

AND BOORISH. BRAZIL, WHICH HAS BEEN REPRESENTED FOR MANY YEARS BY AMBASSADOR DAVID DAMOTA, CONTINUES TO EXERCISE DISPROPORTIONATE INFLUENCE IN COMITE. NUMBER OF OTHER DELS ALSO ARE RESENTED BY ABLE AND INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS MSELLE OF TANZANIA AND OUEDRAOGO OF UPPER VOLTA. END RESULT IS THAT THESE GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ALL BUT CAPTURE FIFTH COMITE, WITH WEO'S INCREASINGLY PLAYING A LESS-PREDOMINANT ROLE.

3. MISSION BELIEVES THISCHANGING FACE OF FIFTH COMITE AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT DESERVES DEPT'S ATTENTION. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT DEPT CONSIDER RAISING QUESTION WITH WEO MEMBERS IN CAPITALS WITIN CONTEXT OF PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS BY INCLUDING IN DEPT'S CABLE TO POSTS INSTRUCTIONS THAT MATTER BE RAISED DISCREETLY AND WE URGE STRONG REPRESENTATION IN FIFTH COMITE. IF THIS IS DONE, USG IS LIKELY TO BE BENEFACITOR SINCE WE INCREASINGLY ALONE WE HAVE TO VACE ONSLAUGHT OF NAG AND LDC GROUPS ALONE.
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